

3/18/2013

WE appreciate the opportunity to comment on the County's excellent SEA program
The Rio Hondo in the unincorporated South San Gabriel area/ / Whittier Narrows is one of the few free flowing rivers in Southern California and we applaud it being included in the SEA.
We wish to point out the significant population of the Endangered Southern California Gnatcatcher in the adjacent Montebello Hills. The population in the SCE right of way APN APN 5271-020-029 and 074 is reasonably protected however the population in the adjacent Montebello oilfield is threatened by extermination for development.

These are the most significant populations in Southern California and have been repopulating the Whittier/ Puente/Chino Hills.

The migration route north through SCE 5271-0060-801/805 has been de vegetized (bulldozed, weed whacked, mowed) as part of the SCE "Techapi" project, it needs to be replanted with natives when construction is complete.

See the Techapi project EIR for biological studies. SCE is doing biological monitoring.

Adjacent to the East of the SCE ROW and North between the Montebello Hills and San Gabriel blvd and the Rio Hondo is a 7 acre brownfield owned by Chevron/ Texaco APN 5271-009-005.

This parcel is also suitable habitat.

There is a historic trail running up the Potrero Heights bluff from the river near the dividing line between SCE and TExaco

Gnatcatchers and people and horses can coexist in close proximity, but not without suitable habitat

We are concerned that the current nature corridor from the SCE population (on the Rosemead border) towards the East, Lincoln Ave, the Rio Hondo, Rosemead Blvd, San Gabriel River/ Whittier narrows/ Puente hills could be cut off/ disrupted not to mention the decimation of the major population in the hills.

Another issue of interest is the cleaning up of the Rio Hondo and it's tributary Storm drains. A visit to the Bosque de Rio Hondo is marred by trash, debris, pollution.

We support the removal of Arundo, Atlanthus, Eucalyptus, Castor beans, acacia, "pepper trees" and other invasives from the Rio Hondo and Whittier Narrow dam basin. These invasives drive out necessary habitat for native flora and fauna.

Jim Flournoy sec,
Save Our Community